

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 IO-10 NIC-01 CU-02

SCCT-01 A-01 OPR-01 SY-04 OC-05 CCO-00 /077 W

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O P 261118Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1518

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: EXTREME LEFT BREAKS UP CDS CONGRESS

SUMMARY: EXTREME LEFT ELEMENTS FROM MES, SOCIALIST YOUTH, PRP-BR, LUAR, AND LCI BESIEGE CDS CONGRESS IN OPORTO FORCING CANCELLATION AFTER GOP FAILS TO AVERT EXPECTED CONFRONTATION. END SUMMARY.

1. FIRST NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARTIDO CENTRO DEMOCRATA SOCIAL (CDS) STARTED AT 1000, JAN 25 AND WAS TO CONTINUE THROUGH JAN 26 IN OPORTO. CONGRESS HAD ABOUT 700 DELEGATES PLUS INVITED OBSERVERS FROM SEVERAL EUROPEAN CONSERVATIVE AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, INCLUDING BRITISH SHADOW FOREIGN SECRETARY RIPON AND LARGE DELEGATION FROM GERMAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. SEVERAL EMBASSIES HAD OBSERVERS INCLUDING FSO CASON FROM THIS EMBASSY.

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2. EXTREME LEFT REPEATEDLY THREATENED DURING COURSE OF PREVIOUS

WEEK TO DEMONSTRATE AT CONGRESS WHICH THEY TERMED "FASCIST." CDS WAS ANTICIPATING POSSIBLE VIOLENCE ESPECIALLY AFTER NOVEMBER 4, 1974 MRPP DESTRUCTION OF CDS PARTY HEADQUARTERS.

3. EXTREME LEFT RALLY AGAINST CONGRESS STARTED AT 3:30PM IN DOWNTOWN OPORTO AND INCLUDED PARTICIPANTS FROM MOVIMENTO DA ESQUERDA SOCIALIST (MES), JUVENTUD SOCIALISTA (JS), PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO DO PROLETARIADO-BRIGADAS REVOLUCIONARIAS (PRP-BR), LIGA COMUNISTA INTERNACIONALISTA (LCI) AND LIGA DA UNIAO E ACCAO REVOLUCIONARIA (LUAR). THESE GROUPS FALL INTO TROTSKYITE AND RADICAL SOCIALIST CATEGORIES. APPARENTLY MRPP DID NOT PARTICIPATE, AND COMMUNIST PARTY MADE STATEMENT AFTER CANCELLATION OF CONGRESS THAT IT HAD NEITHER ORGANIZED NOR BACKED DEMONSTRATION.

4. LEFTISTS MOVED FROM DOWNTOWN OPORTO TO CRYSTAL PALACE, SITE OF CONGRESS, AND QUICKLY SURROUNDED AND ATTACKED POLICE ATTEMPTING TO DEFEND PALACE GROUNDS. THREE POLICE WERE SHOT AND WOUNDED. POLICE WERE UNDER ORDERS NOT TO RETURN FIRE. DEMONSTRATORS MANAGED TO BREAK DOWN ONE GATE IN WALL SURROUNDING PALACE GROUNDS, BUT POLICE PREVENTED ENTRANCE. BY 6:00PM THERE WERE ESTIMATED 3000 DEMONSTRATORS ON SCENE.

5. ARMY AND NATIONAL REPUBLICAN GUARD RIOT UNITS SHOWED UP BUT GUARD WAS TOLD TO GO AWAY BY ARMY COMMANDER WHO DID NOT WANT THEM TANGLING WITH RIOTERS. ARMY TROOPS WERE UNIMPRESSIVE UNIT FROM LOCAL GARRISON, GOOD PORTION OF WHOSE PERSONNEL HAD BEEN GIVEN WEEKEND LEAVE.

6. AT THIS POINT, THOROUGHLY SCARED CDS LEADERSHIP CALLED PRIME MINISTER AND COPCON FOR HELP IN GETTING THEIR DELEGATES SAFELY OUT OF BUILDING. FOREIGN OBSERVERS INSIDE PALACE WERE COMPARING SITUATION TO PARIS 68 AND FRANTICALLY CALLING EMBASSIES FOR ASSISTANCE. DEMONSTRATORS, WAVING CLUBS AND STICKS WERE ON VERGE OF BREAKING THROUGH THIN POLICE AND ARMY LINES AT ANY MOMENT. DEMONSTRATORS BURNED AUTOMOBILES IN VICINITY AND LOBBED MOLOTOV COCKTAILS INTO PALACE GROUNDS. GARRISON SOLDIERS WERE UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THEIR ROLE AND TOLD SEVERAL OBSERVERS THAT THEY FELT THEY OUGHT TO BE OUTSIDE WITH THE MOB.

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7. COPCON PARATROOPERS WITH LIGHT ARMOR FINALLY ARRIVED ON SCENE AT DAWN OF JAN 26 AND QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY ORGANIZED CONVOY TO MOVE DELEGATES SAFELY OUT OF BUILDING, BUT ONLY AFTER EXTRACTING PROMISE FROM CDS LEADERSHIP THAT CONGRESS WOULD BE CANCELLED. WITHOUT CANCELLATION, ARMY SAID THEY COULD NOT GUARANTEE SAFETY OF DELEGATES.

COMMENT: WE EXPECT STRONG REACTION TO THIS EVENT, BOTH HERE AND

IN WESTERN EUROPE ESPECIALLY IN COUNTRIES WHOSE OBSERVERS HAD
FIRST HAND TASTE OF HOW CDS TREATED. UK AMBASSADOR HAS ALREADY
SUGGESTED JOINT PROTEST TO FELLOW MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC COM-
MUNITY. QUESTION IS WHY GOP WITH PLENTY OF WARNING DID NOT ACT
TO FORESTALL THIS CONFRONTATION. DELAY WILL SERVE TO FEED
GROWING SUSPICIONS HERE THAT PRESENT CONTROLLING ELEMENT OF AFM,
PARTICULARLY PM VASCO GONCALVES, IS ALLOWING SELF TO BE USED BY
LEFTISTS.
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